GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4111
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2002
CHILD MARRIAGES
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether girls are married before 14 years of age in some States of the country;

(b) if so, the name of these States;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons involved in this case; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such illegal activities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) and (b) Some cases of girls being married before attaining the age of eighteen years including those below 14 years in the States of Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been reported in a section of the Press.

(c) The Government has sough information on the press reports from concerned State Governments.

(d) The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 has been amended in 1978. As per theamended Act, the minimum age for marriage was fixed at 21 years for boys and 18 years for girls and offences under the Act were made cognizable.

The National Commission for Women has organized a Bal Vivah VirodhiAbhiyan in six States viz., Andhra Prades, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh where the Commission considers child marriage are more prevalent.